

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church & School Website www.stpaulslutheran.net	

Welcome Happy New Year! Welcome to worship, one and all. Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Visitors Please sign our guest book found in the narthex (entrance) as well as the Attendance Card located in your pew. A visitor information packet is available near the guest register. Please introduce yourself to one of the pastors. We sincerely hope to have you worship with us again.

COMMUNION

As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper, we invite you to turn to pages 329-330 in the front of the hymnal and review section 4: "Christian Questions and their Answers." and to page 308 as well as the inside front cover of the hymnal and use the appropriate prayers before and after communion.

As we celebrate the LORD'S SUPPER today, we confess the REAL PRESENCE

We come to the Lord's Table because we have sinned and want the Lord's assurance of His forgiveness of our sins as well as His strength for living The New Life of His Resurrection. As we eat the bread and drink the wine, because Jesus says so, we also receive His very Body and Blood. Doing this in repentant faith we receive His forgiveness. With forgiveness, God gives us the repentant New Life, seeking and using His power to overcome sinful ways and turning away from them. Only in such faith do we properly and profitably receive the Sacrament and not misuse it to our judgment.

As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public confession to our unity in the Christian Faith. We invite communicant members of this congregation, or another congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to commune. Prompted by love and caring, we ask that guests who wish to receive the sacrament please speak with the pastor or lay minister before the service.

Directional Notes:

- Please follow the indications of the ushers as they direct you to the communion rail.
- The wine will be administered by both the common cup and individual cup. If you prefer the common cup, please let the individual cup pass and reach out for the common cup as it comes to you.
- Individual cups should be placed in the plastic lined baskets at the end of the communion rail.
- If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, the two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

This hymn, undoubtedly the greatest hymn in the English language, was first published by Isaac Watts in his Psalms of David, Imitated in 1719. Originally in nine stanzas, based on Psalm 90:1-5, it was headed "Man Frail and God Eternal." Watts probably wrote this hymn about 1714, in a time of great national anxiety just before the death of Queen Anne in August of that year. Her death halted the enactment of the Schism Act that would have suppressed Dissenters (of whom Watts was one) and would undoubtedly have brought persecution upon them.

George Sampson*, in his Warton Lecture to the British Academy in 1943, asks and answers:

What is the greatest of all English hymns? The hymn that suits all sorts and condition of men, at church or at chapel, on ship or at church parade anywhere; the hymn we can sing in triumph or in adversity, the hymn of consolation, comfort, and resignation? It is the first part of Psalm 90, written in common meter by Isaac Watts, and bearing the title, 'Man Frail and God Eternal' (The Century of Divine Songs).

How true! But this hymn, based as it is on the profoundest psalm on the mystery of time, rises above occasions and situations. Reflecting on the inexorable passing of time, expressed in the Greek word chronos, it looks with hope to the kairos, the proper, the right time for something, to the God of our eternal salvation. In the final analysis it is the kairos-time that gives meaning and purpose to the chronos.

In his Collection of Psalms and Hymns (1737), John Wesley printed the hymn with the opening, "O God, our help," a form that many subsequent hymnals [including LSB] have followed.

**George Sampson (1873-1950) was a noted educationist who wrote widely on the teaching of English and other subjects. He was an Inspector of Schools (LCC); General Secretary of the English Association; and a member of the Departmental Committee on Teaching of English in England, and the Cambridge Advisory Committee on Religious Instruction. He died in 1950.*

Prayer

O God, You have always been God. Long before the earth was formed, long after it ceases to exist, You have been and You shall always be. O God, break into our short span of existence with Your eternal love and grace. Intersperse our days of despair with hours of joy. Enable us to see Your will and purpose for our presence here and to discover some meaning for our brief, trouble-fraught appearance in the world. Imprint on us Your brand of ownership, and place us within Your plan and objective for our lives. Amen.

New Years Eve Worship

“Another Year of Grace”

December 31, 2020; 6:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER...*As the world rings in the New Year, there are many things to consider from 2020. We consider those who have died in the past year. We consider our own sins and failures. But we also consider all of the ways in which Jesus has continued to lead and guide us. On this night, we remember the love of Christ that sustains us through each passing year, and we pray His blessing on another year of grace.*

Ringling of the Bells

Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!

Opening Hymn: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” LSB, hymn #733

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

P: He has brought us to the ending of the day

C: **and to the close of another year.**

P: As we remember the year that is past,

C: **forgive us, O Lord.**

P: As we turn to the year that is ahead,

C: **lead us, O Lord.**

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: In today's Psalm, we are reminded of our own mortality. Moses writes, “*You return man to dust and say, ‘Return, O children of man!’*” We are by nature sinful and unclean. We sin daily throughout the year. We recognize that the wages of sin is death. At the close of this year, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ.

C: **Almighty God, we confess our sin of forgetfulness, our sin of unrepentance, and our struggle with our sinful nature. Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: “*If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?*” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING - PSALM 90:1-12

P: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

C: **Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

P: You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."
C: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.
P: You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning
C: though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.
P: We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation.
C: You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
P: All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan.
C: The length of our days is seventy years - or eighty, if we have the strength;
P: yet their span is but trouble and sorrow,
C: for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
P: Who knows the power of your anger?
C: For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
P: Teach us to number our days aright,
C: that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
P: May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us--
C: yes, establish the work of our hands.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P: Let us pray. . . . Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year that is ending and commend, to Your blessing and love, the times yet to come.
C: In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

(Please be seated)

+ WORD +

New Testament Lesson: Romans 8:31-39

(If God Is For Us!)

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Stand

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:35-40

(Seek HIS Kingdom)

[Jesus said:] "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be Seated)

Sermon Hymn: "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" LSB, hymn #390

Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Pastor's Message: "The Year of...."

Tithes and Offerings will be collected as you leave worship

CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our faith using Luther's explanation to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray, . . . Bless us, O Lord, and keep us in the name of Jesus, that receiving the gift of His righteousness by faith we display in our own lives our love for Your Word and our trust in Your grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Make Your face to shine on us, Lord, that we never be without the guidance of Your Word and the voices of those whom You have appointed to preach that Word to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lift up the countenance of Your favor upon our nation and those who govern us in this land. Bring peace to places where war and violence threaten, and deliver us from all injustice and callous disregard of the precious gift of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, cover us with the name of our Savior in our hour of need, and grant us grace to endure patiently in the afflictions of this body and life. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). May they be delivered according to Your Will and be kept faithful until the day when all their troubles shall cease. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Guide us, O Lord, to know and use wisely Your gift of time, lest we invest our hearts too much in those things temporal that we miss the eternal, which You have given to us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Prepare us, O Lord, to receive the sacrificial body and blood of our Savior in this blest communion and keep any sin from preventing us from receiving worthily the testament of His body and blood that He has bequeathed to His Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Instill in us, O Lord, a generous heart and a willing spirit, that we use wisely and for Your glory all the resources You have entrusted to us and return to You the tithes and offerings You are due, along with the song of praise and thanksgiving we lift before You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we recall those who have died in faith and now rest from their labors, accept our gratitude for the blessings You showed them in life, and guard us that at length we follow in their steps, fall asleep in the arms of our Savior, and awaken in His likeness and glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

SACRAMENT

(In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2)

P: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. Colossians 3:1

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Psalm 136

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is right and fitting that we should give thanks to You, gracious Lord. You are the source of our life and the ruler of time.

C: Strengthen us with Your presence, eternal God, that we may ever live to Your glory.

P: Heavenly Father, You have indeed been our refuge throughout all generations. Even before You created the heavens and the earth, You are King of kings and Lord of lords. At the close of this year, we praise You for Your constant love and compassion, having forgiven our sins for the sake of Jesus Christ and having restored us to Your family. For this and all that You do to support our bodies and souls, we join together with angels, archangels, and all the generations of believers who have gone before us and those generations yet to come, as we praise You and sing:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” *LSB, hymn #507, st. 4*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

P: Let us pray, . . . Holy and mighty God, heaven and earth are full of Your glory and yet none can compare with the glory revealed to us when You sent Your own Son into flesh through the Virgin to fulfill Your saving will. By His blood shed and obedient life You have counted us righteous, and in His willing sacrifice upon the cross You have declared us forgiven. Grant now that by Your Holy Spirit we come to His Table in faith and receive to our benefit the riches of His grace in this Holy Communion. O Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB363 - Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

LSB621 - Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

LSB370 - What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Post Communion Cantic

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" LSB, hymn #805

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray, . . We praise You, O God, for having fed us with the very body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through this gift of life, strengthen us to meet the challenges of the New Year, remaining strong in faith and in hope, that we may be faithful until the day when our Lord comes to guide us to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

BLESSING

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

C: Amen.

Recessional: “Go, My Children, With My Blessing” LSB, hymn #922

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing - You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

See You In Worship Next Week!

Postlude

Serving In God's House Today

Preacher: Pastor Michael Hanel

Organist: Nadine Engel

Lay Ministers: 6:00: Kevin Kurtz, Bruce Clark

Acolytes: 6:00: Cecily Richardson, Seth McHugh

Announcements - December 31, 2020

Offering Envelopes - The 2021 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up in Fellowship Hall. They are in alphabetical order.

Voter’s Assembly Meeting - A regular meeting of the Voters' Assembly will be held, Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 12:30pm in the School Gym after worship.

ALTAR FLOWER CHART for 2021

The Flower Chart for 2021 is up and will be posted at the downtown church through January 3rd and then will be moved out to the school site. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers in honor of or in memory of someone or some special occasion, please sign up on the chart for your desired weekend. When you sign up for flowers please include your phone number. Thank you!

The cost is \$25.00 for one vase or \$50.00 for two. Please make checks payable to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. Checks may be put in the offering plate or turned in to the church office. If you have any questions please contact Lynda Koeppen at 932-1545 or lykoeppen@comcast.net.

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WORSHIP NOTES

***“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’
(Psalm 122:1)”***

We are glad that we can gather in worship as God's people. However, we do need to proceed with precautions at this time.

1. You are welcome to attend. however if you have a fever or are not feeling well, please stay home and watch our services online.
2. As you enter, there will be hand sanitizer available for you, but please feel free to bring your own.
3. As you arrive for worship, we ask that you practice social distancing between family groups (6 feet between groups in pews and two chairs of space between groups at the school location).
4. Pick up your own bulletin and please take it with you or place it in the trash or recycle can as you leave.
5. If you choose to use a hymnal, please leave it by your seat and it will be wiped down before being returned to its spot.
6. While we are not shaking hands at this time, you can still greet your friends and those sitting nearby.
7. We will have our normal style service, with responses and singing. Please feel free to sing. *But to be cautious, please wear your mask while singing.*
8. Collection of Tithes and Offerings will be taken near the exits after the service. You may simply place your offering in them as you leave.
- 9. Communion. Please wear your mask coming up to communion. At Communion, you will receive the bread in your hand and both individual and common cup will be available. Remove your mask when consuming the elements. The Pastors and Lay Ministers will be wearing a mask and will use hand sanitizer before serving the elements. Afterwards, dispose of the empty container in the baskets. Children are welcome to come up for a blessing during communion.**